

- Detroit Focus: HOPE-The Center for Advanced Technology (CAT) program is an incumbent worker program, run by Focus: HOPE. The CAT program is designed to provide the engineering equivalent of a "teaching hospital." Engineering students pursue their engineering education within an environment of actual production and research and development contracts. Participants will be preparing for associate and bachelor degrees in manufacturing engineering and technology.
- Benton Harbor Skilled Trades/Apprenticeship training is a collaborative effort involving the State, local employers, and the local Michigan Works! Agency (MWA) in funding training to prepare residents of the Benton Harbor area for jobs in building and construction.
- Implementation of the Common Measures and possibly EMILE required changes to the management and reporting information systems and training for the system partners.
- MiRSA capacity building to develop and support the participating entities. This initiative will be funded in partnership with the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation. The goal of the MiRSAs is to connect workers to jobs with a future, and to employers to workers with the right skills as part of the Governor's development of a 21st century workforce.
- Multi-area project to provide additional services and training to dislocated workers. This is consistent with the Governor's goal that adults in the workforce have the skills needed for the jobs of today and tomorrow.
- Provide resources for capacity building in professional and technical areas for MWA staffs and contractors.
- Displaced Homemaker Program to provide employment and training services that will increase employment, retention and earnings. Participants are assessed and the services tailored to meet individual needs.

During the program year funds will be used for other allowable State activities as determined appropriate.

X.C. Describe how any waivers or workflex authority (both existing and planned) will assist the State in developing its workforce investment system.

The following WIA waivers will assist the State in developing its workforce investment system:

- The State seeks to extend its waiver on the time limit of initial eligibility of training providers for one local area. Included in this waiver request, is approval for the local area to continue to pilot an Individual Training Account Tiered Provider System for the duration of this plan. Although this waiver has resulted in improved program performance and training services for WIA

customers within the affected local area. additional time is necessary to gain appropriate customer and training provider outcomes and feedbacks.

State strategies and initiatives will be furthered through the continuation of this waiver by increasing participants' skills levels and, subsequently, employability. The complete waiver extension request is included as Attachment C.

- The State plans to seek a waiver that would allow the Governor the ability to provide local Workforce Development Boards (WDBs) with policies and procedures that would enable the transfer of up to 100 percent of program year formula funding between the adult and dislocated worker funding streams. Providing local WDBs with greater flexibility in the administration of their finances and aligning limited workforce development resources with current demands is critical. The waiver will continue to ensure a more effective delivery of WIA programs and services throughout Michigan and provide for a more comprehensive system designed to meet the needs of local areas, ultimately resulting in the State's ability to achieve outlined strategies and initiatives.
- The State plans to seek a waiver to allow the State to transfer a percentage of the State set-aside Rapid Response funds to the State set-aside Governor's reserve funds. The ability to transfer these funds will allow the State to increase the number of incumbent workers who can be trained, upgrade the skills of those receiving training, facilitate promotion of those who received training, and respond to vacancies created with other Department of Labor & Economic Growth (DLEG) funded participants. Through its implementation, this waiver will further the State's workforce investment system by addressing the need for a more skilled workforce, assist in the retention of businesses, and attract entrepreneurs.

Michigan will continue to carry out all required statewide activities.

Furthermore, approval of this waiver will not diminish the ability of the State or local areas to neither respond to worker dislocations, nor will it affect local formula allocations for carrying out WIA adult, youth, and dislocated worker activities.

- The State plans to seek a waiver of the WIA statutes relating to the redistribution of recaptured local funds. The WIA requires that when WDBs do not meet certain expenditure levels, local funds are recaptured by the state and redistributed. However, the WIA is prescriptive in how the funds are redistributed; each local workforce development area that did not have funds recaptured must receive a portion of the recaptured funds. For example, if two of the 25 WDBs have funds recaptured, the remaining 23 WDBs would receive a portion of the recaptured funds regardless of need. The waiver request would allow the State to ensure that funds are redistributed to those WDBs with the greatest need. In doing so, the State may determine the

ATTACHMENT C

Ms. Christine Kulick
Division of One-Stop
Office of Workforce Investment
Employment and Training Administration
U.S. Department of Labor
200 Constitution Avenue, NW
Room S-4231
Washington, DC 20210

Dear Ms. Kulick:

On February 1, 2004, the Thumb Area Michigan Works! Agency began implementation of its U. S. Department of Labor approved, Individual Training Account (ITA) Tiered Provider System demonstration project. During its early operation, the Thumb Area has experienced and reported positive, progressive system development activities, and encountered no issues of concern related to the system. However, it has become apparent that the current approved timeframe on the administration of the ITA Tiered Provider demonstration will not provide sufficient time to gain system-wide customer and training provider outcomes and feedback.

Taking these circumstances into consideration, Michigan officially request an extension of the waiver awarded to the Thumb Area to continue to administer the ITA Tiered Provider System demonstration project through the duration of the State's strategic plan (i.e. June 30, 2007.) The proposed extension would:

- Allow for continual testing of the ITA alternative as the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) reauthorization discussion continues
- Expand the system to include updates on current training provider rankings utilized by participants to make informed training decisions
- Provide additional outreach to case manager who utilize the ITA alternative to assist participants
- Increase marketing of the system throughout the Thumb Area
- Allow for appropriate outcome data to be collected regarding the impact of the ITA waiver
- Target a conclusion date that corresponds with the standard end of a Program Year
- Ensure continuation of no additional costs to the WIA system

Thank you in advance for your consideration. Please contact Ms. Janet Howard, Deputy Director, Bureau of Workforce Programs, at (517) 335-5858, with any questions.

Sincerely,

Brenda C. Njiwaji, Director
Bureau of Workforce Programs